

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when our Nation's economy is struggling to recover from our deepest recession in which millions of Americans are looking for work, no one would believe that we would forgo an opportunity to reduce our reliance on Middle Eastern oil and create thousands of American jobs.

Incredibly, that's exactly what happened after the White House announced they would delay decision on approval of the Keystone XL pipeline until 2013, after the elections of November 2012. At a time when our President faced a difficult choice between opposing powers within his base—labor unions and radical environmentalists—he chose to punt rather than lead.

Labor unions support construction of the Keystone XL pipeline because they understand this project has been deemed safe and will create 20,000 direct American jobs and thousands more indirect jobs across our Nation as the pipeline is built. But radical environmentalists and Hollywood activists vehemently oppose the project. In fact, they surrounded the White House in protest of the Keystone XL pipeline, claiming that the project is not environmentally safe. While these protesters made catchy headlines, their claims about the Keystone XL pipeline simply aren't true.

The Keystone XL project has been studied extensively for over 3 years, when TransCanada originally filed an application for a Presidential permit with the Department of State. The Presidential permit review process was conducted by the State Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and many other agencies within the Federal Government. After 3 years of comprehensive review and several changes to the project to accommodate environmental concerns, the final report to the White House incorporated 57 project-specific special conditions for the design, construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline. In simple terms, the Keystone XL pipeline was designed to be the safest pipeline the world has ever known.

Here's the truth why the Keystone XL pipeline promises to be the safest pipeline ever. As proposed, the Keystone XL pipeline will be monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with the most advanced technologies. It will be buried at a deeper depth than similar pipelines to minimize risk. It will utilize multiple leak detection methods and failsafe shutoff systems, as well as having an emergency response program in place ready to respond if needed.

Critics of the project further claim that the crude transported by the Keystone XL pipeline is highly corrosive "toxic sludge." This is a claim that can only come out of Hollywood, with no facts to support it. Independent analysis and sound science have determined these oils are not corrosive to steel. Canadian oil is already shipped safely across the United States via other Ca-

nadian pipelines. Good old-fashioned common sense tells us that no company would try to destroy its own interest by spending billions to construct a pipeline system that is going to be eaten up by the very products it transports.

I'll wrap up my comments with the facts about the Keystone XL pipeline. This project has been exhaustively studied and revised to ensure its safety. Three years of grueling review and detailed analysis by multiple Federal Government agencies have concluded that construction and use of the Keystone pipeline is safe. In August, our Department of State recommended that President Obama approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

Our economy is still teetering on recession. It needs to be strengthened; and we need a safe, reliable supply of energy to grow it. Canada can provide it. They want to provide it, thereby reducing our reliance on Middle Eastern oil and strengthening our national security because we have energy security as a result.

Thousands of new jobs will be created to build this pipeline. Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to approve the Keystone XL pipeline now.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. My colleagues, I once again rise asking that we immediately consider extending the Federal Unemployment Compensation Act.

It seems as though I walked into this movie before, last year, and we were begging once again that we throw away the labels of being Democrat or Republican and reach out to make an appeal as to what makes this country different from other countries.

This is the only country in the world that no one wants to leave and everyone wants to come in. And it's not because of the differences we have with the rich and the poor. It's that always in this country we extended hope. We allowed people to believe that they were never really truly alone. And then we find a circumstance that Americans, hardworking Americans are trying to fulfill that American Dream—once again not to become a Wall Street broker, and certainly not to be living a life of poverty, but to join that middle class that has been the engine for hope and economic advancement for our country. And we find this situation now that, through no fault of their own, these dreams have been shattered. People have not only lost their jobs, but they've lost their self-esteem, they've lost their savings, they have not been able to send their kids to college.

And so what is it that we can do since it's abundantly clear that in this Congress there is a gridlock? And we don't want you to lose hope because

there's things that Americans can do. It's not just waiting for this Congress to act, because you hold in your hands the power to control this Congress. And we should not have to wait until next year in order to say that you can express yourself at the polls. No indeed.

Every Member of Congress—435 of us here—are anxiously waiting for your call, and I hope that call would be a call of compassion. It should be a call from our ministers, from our Catholics and Protestants and Jews and synagogues and Mormons and Muslims saying that in America we should not have the vulnerable carrying the pain of mistakes that have been made. We should be hearing from our civic leaders and our voters and calling Republicans, Democrats, and Independents saying we did not send you to Washington to display just what a good Republican you are or what a good Democrat you are.

We should talk about this sign up here, "In God We Trust." Doesn't that mean something about taking care of the vulnerable, the unemployed, those without homes, without jobs and without hope? Doesn't it mean that we have a tradition as Members of Congress? And doesn't it mean that our voters have a responsibility not to just say how bad we are, but to say how good they are for making certain that they're monitoring our conduct, not through a poll, but through our action.

The question is, How did your Congressman vote on extending unemployment compensation?

□ 1100

Rather than wait for the good or bad news, call now. Call today. Call every day this week.

They'll never have a Thanksgiving or a Christmas that they used to have, but they can't give up hope. They can't give in and they can't give up.

So I am saying for America, you don't have to go and protest, even though I appreciate the fact that these courageous men and women are doing it. You don't have to walk those civil rights marches. But you can at least get in touch with your Member of Congress, remind him or her of their constitutional responsibility, and remind them of their moral responsibility to the vulnerable among us, the sick, the aged, the unemployed, those that played by the rules, and we know have nothing to do with the situation they find themselves in economically.

We can make a change, but it's going to take the American people to come together and say they're mad as hell and they're not going to take it anymore.

So let's make an appeal that America takes the Congress back. Direct not ourselves to do things in order to get reelected but direct we do things because it's the right thing to do.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE CORPORAL SCOTT HARPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I could not think of a more appropriate person to be in the Chair this morning than yourself, to me and to others, an American hero because, Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor with a sadness but yet with a great sense of pride to honor the service of one of Georgia's own, Lance Corporal Scott Harper.

On October 13, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, he gave the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the protection of his homeland and his family and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, he will be greatly missed by all. Lance Corporal Harper was better known to his close friends not as Scott but as Boots. While a student at Alexander High School, he once forgot his tennis shoes for gym class and kept his boots on instead. And on that day, Mr. Speaker, he learned the lasting nickname of Boots. But he also showed how he was prepared to adapt to all scenarios.

When a Marine recruiter showed up at his high school senior year, Boots answered the call and chose a life of service in the United States Marine Corps with a courage and motivation that most young men his age have not yet found in life.

After graduating high school, he went into active duty in the Marine Corps. Boots served one term in Afghanistan and returned safely home. He left on the second tour July 13, with the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division.

On October 13, his division was struck by small arms fire while conducting combat operations. A fellow Marine was shot first, and Boots ran into opposing gunfire to save his friend. Though Boots lost his life, he saved the life of his wounded friend in the process. Boots was always loyal as a friend, and there is no more honor that one can give than to lay down his life for another.

Boots was devoted to his family and his community. Even when he only had a few days off, he would make time, that precious time, to come home and visit his family and friends. Though communication was difficult, Boots was always writing his family and called home as much as possible. The Saturday before he was killed, Boots called his father to say that he had decided to enroll at the University of Georgia when he returned home.

Upon coming home for this final time, he arrived at Charlie Brown Airfield. Crowds from the community lined the streets to escort Boots to his final home, to his family and to his friends for the last time. Boots was accompanied by a Marine Corps Honor Guard, the Patriot Guard, the Douglasville Police Department, and

the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, among many others.

Norfolk-Southern even stopped its railroad cars in honor of the procession. As they passed everyone stood and saluted to honor the fallen Marine and hometown hero.

Boots embodied the ideals that the Marines strive to achieve. I am both honored and proud that this soldier from the Third District fought so hard for our country and for our freedom. Boots was a model citizen, soldier, and son. He was an extraordinary young man with incredible potential before him, and he will be forever missed.

I am proud to stand here and thank him for sacrificing his life for strangers like me and my family. And Joan and I extend our sympathy to the family of this fallen hero for raising such a brave, courageous, honorable, giving son.

And Boots, we, as a Nation, salute you today. Semper Fi.

LIFE WITHOUT HOPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, first, let me associate my comments with those of my colleague Mr. WESTMORELAND.

Mr. Speaker, on each Wednesday night for probably the last 10 or 12 years, our church has provided food for those who are struggling. Not long ago a gentleman came to our church, picked up food. And then later that night, as I was leaving the church, I ran into him at a 7-Eleven. You can imagine how troubled I was when I saw him buying a lottery ticket. I thought to myself, this guy has just ripped off the church and then is using his money for a lottery ticket.

So I waited for him outside the 7-Eleven. And when he came out, I said to him, Look, I'm a little concerned because you picked up a sack of groceries, and then you just spent money on a lottery, and those two just don't match.

And he said, Well, I probably shouldn't have spent the money on the lottery, but you know, Reverend, a man's got to have some hope.

And while I think that hope is misplaced, the truth of the matter is he was absolutely correct. It is virtually impossible to live any kind of productive life on this planet without hope.

There are millions of Americans who, unfortunately, cannot place their hope in this body. I think that I can state without fear of contradiction that the dysfunctionality of the United States Congress is helping to erase hope from the men and women in this country who are struggling. All of the back and forth and blaming each other has nothing to do with providing hope. And quite often, we allow ideology to trump logic.

We decide almost every day that no matter what, I'm going to take the position of the Republicans or I'm going

to take the position of the Democrats, and, as a result, we have polluted the public.

This is one of the nastiest moments in U.S. history. Just look at television. Look at all of the so-called reality shows. The ones that are most popular are ones where people are doing things to each other or insulting each other; you're fired, or you've got to eat live spiders. That's what we are coming to.

A perfect example of what we're doing is not addressing the expiring unemployment benefits. At the end of this year, almost 2 million Americans—they have names, they have faces, they have families—2 million Americans will lose their unemployment benefits by mid-February.

□ 1110

A total of over 6 million Americans will lose benefits next year unless this body decides to become functional. In Missouri, my home State, 40,400 citizens depend on unemployment benefits. Many more are unemployed and not receiving any help at all. In Missouri, the unemployment rate is almost 9 percent.

I grew up in public housing. Yes, public housing. My father worked three jobs to get us out, worked three jobs to send me and my three sisters through college. And my mother started college when I was in the 8th grade. So I always resent any implication that people don't want to work.

So as we move into a holiday season, a season of hope, my hope is that the Congress of the United States will not snatch hope from over 2 million Americans.

EUROPE BAILOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, no nation, no economy can survive without fiscal discipline. Printing more money is never the answer. Bailout funds have already been granted to Greece, Ireland, and Portugal; and the European crisis has gotten worse, not better.

And here in the United States, the Obama administration has cranked up the printing presses first through their \$800 billion stimulus boondoggle and then through the Federal Reserve's Quantitative Easing Program. And what did it produce? Nine percent unemployment and a \$1 trillion-plus budget deficit for the last 3 years, and we have \$15 trillion in debt.

I want to read from a couple of articles that were in the paper yesterday.

The first one from The Wall Street Journal, and it's entitled "Blame It on Berlin." It says: "Berlin's alleged sin is its reluctance to write a blank check to save the euro—either by underwriting a new euro zone fiscal union, or by granting permission for the European Central Bank to buy trillions of dollars in sovereign debt." And they'd have to print money to do that.